

Unfortunately, I will be unable to attend the commission meeting tomorrow evening (Wednesday, June 3rd) due to prior commitments that I am unable to change. I would like to offer my thoughts regarding the request of rezoning the current location of Georgetown Little League fields to commercial property. As a tax payer I think it would be in the best interest of Georgetown Township to rezone the property. I think that the probably change to a new, modern Family Fare will bring growth and opportunity to the area. The current stores are both outdated, and the properties that they are on do not allow for the change that Family Fare needs to do to offer better service to the local community.

I have read some of the complaints from nearby residents about children not being able to ride their bikes to the park, and in my years of watching my daughter play at Georgetown I have not seen children ride their bikes to the fields. The current fields are inadequate to say the least. The parking is abysmal, and I have seen several close calls by children (and adults) walking between cars (or even on the side of cars) almost getting hit by traffic going through the fields. In addition to the poor parking available, there are not enough fields or lighting to accommodate all the teams, which is sad for future generations.

I know that the changing of the zone to commercial will not guarantee a majority yes vote from the League membership, but I feel that a strong majority are in total support of the changes necessary to assist our children enjoy themselves at Georgetown Little League. Without a change of zoning to the property, I feel that it will continue to jeopardize the future of the League at the current location.

S.K. Kevin Wilterink
Deputy Grand Knight
Bishop Fulton Sheen Council 7487
Knights of Columbus
616-457-7170 home
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To the Planning Commission,

As I am unable to attend the meeting on June 3,2009 regarding the proposed rezoning of the property near 28th ave and Baldwin, I would just like to express my concerns and opinion.

It is obvious that GLL needs to relocate or make some major improvements to continue to accommodate the growing number of participants. My daughter(14) is currently playing softball there and we see the need, however we love the GLL and it's current location.. Outside of the need that GLL has, I don't believe turning the proposed land into commercial land use would benefit the majority of those who reside in this township. How would this development affect home value? what impact would the new traffic have? Would their be an increase in tax revenue or would it be a wash considering the closing of the existing Family Fare stores? Would this create any real jobs for our future? And what would this new area as well as the abandoned Family Fare sites look like in ten years? If this only benefits Family Fare, Space Source and A.J. Veneklasen and the participants that use the fields 3 months out of the year, then my vote is NO.

Thank You
Scott Smith
2598 Windcrest St
Jenison, MI

Hello,

My family and I have had children at this ball field complex for the last 20 years and another going through the system now.

We are in great favor of rezoning and getting a new complex!

Thank you.

Frank Malott
1483 Caprice Dr.
Jenison, Mich 49428

Ms. Minier:

Thank you for your rapid response. That was totally unexpected , but well appreciated. In your email you stated that you would be happy to pass along any emails to the Planning Commission. Would you kindly forward the comments below to the Commission for their consideration. Thank You.

Dear Commissioners:

Let me begin by introducing ourselves. My name is Darel Alvarez and I moved here from Florida in December 2008, to be with my fiancée, Traci Wielinga. We purchased a residence at 2856 Hagerview Court in Jenison. Traci's children have been participating in the Georgetown Little League since 2004. We both are in favor of relocating the park next to the ice arena for several reasons:

- * Parking - this is a problem which can only be solved by increased space which is offered in the relocation. Last night the police were writing parking tickets to cars parked on the street side. Driving down 28th during game time is scary and a driver must exercise extreme caution. I have had small kids 'pop out' from behind cars more than once. It is very frightening.

- * Not enough fields - the little league has grown to approximately 1500 players and this makes it a challenge to schedule all of the games. Relocating will provide the space required for more fields and alleviate the scheduling problem. Also, the fields will be modernized, hopefully increasing the number of lighted fields to allow for night play.

- * Improved concessions - a much needed improvement for all of the supporters of the park.

- * Sports Complex - having the ice arena and the ball fields co-located lends itself to a "Sports Complex" setting which can be very family oriented. Also this could allow for future expansion of soccer fields, football fields, etc., which adds to the Sports Complex concept.

- * Financially Sound - this is a generous offer by a company which can only improve the community. We realize that several people have pointed out that the traffic in and out of the new facility would be a problem. Urban sprawl is a natural part of a growing local economy. A community can not grow if it is not allow to expand to accommodate the people it serves. I was born and raised in a rural environment and my family has been dislodged by urban sprawl twice. When managed properly by local officials urban sprawl can be a very good thing.

Widening a couple of roads and installing some red lights is a small price to pay for such a magnificent park.

Thank you for time.
Sincerely,

Darel Alvarez
Traci Wielinga
2856 Hagerview Ct
Jenison, MI 49428

Hi,
As residents of Georgetown Township, we would like to voice our support for the proposed zoning change regarding the Space Source/Spartan Stores request.

Spartan Stores has been a major employer in the area, especially Georgetown Township, and have been very charitable to the local community. Both current Family Fare stores are old and need to be seriously updated. Combining both stores to one larger store will benefit the township with a more modern store to better serve the community. Also, the location is ideal for a new store with all the growth the township has had in the area.

The Georgetown Little League will also gain greatly from this proposal. The Little League has long been an organization our community has been very proud of. They have, and continue to, play a major role in the lives of many, many young people in our township. Unfortunately the current complex the Little League uses is now too small and in desperate need of major improvements that will cost millions dollars. The offer Space Source has made to build the new complex for the Little League is a tremendous opportunity for our Little League and township!

Again, we want to ask the board to support the proposed zoning change. This is a Win-Win-Win proposition for Spartan Stores, Georgetown Little League, and Georgetown Township!

Thank You for your time and efforts,
Scott & Melissa Swainston
3483 Lenters Dr

My family is involved with the Georgetown Little League. We have been asked to come out in support of the possibility of new ball fields in the area. Ultimately though, I have to side with the opposition. How is taking the ball fields out of the area and moving a mega-sized Family Fare instead good for our neighborhood? It will leave 2 ugly corners that, in this economy could sit idle for years. Look at the old Kmart complex as an example. I don't know why bigger always has the appearance of being better- it isn't. I have shopped at both the current Family Fare's and have never had a problem finding anything that I needed.

Yes, parking is an issue at the ball fields but with a little patience we have never had a problem finding a parking spot. Plus, the generosity of the couple of churches to park in their lots is sufficient, and families also bike to the games. How many families could actually bike or walk to the proposed ball fields? I moved to Georgetown Township (and my son plays ball here) because of

the community feeling. If this move takes place some more of that community will be stripped away.

A final thought. My 3rd grade daughter did the historic Jenison tour with her school this year. It saddened me how so much of our past and history were literally torn down to make way for "progress." Now, other than the museum, we have a historic sign in the midst of strip malls. What could have been a beautiful, historic downtown that would bring visitors and beautify the area can never be replaced. Progress isn't always tear down and build bigger, progress could also be preservation.

If this is approved it will be another sign for me that maybe Georgetown Township is not the community for our kids to be raised in and that would be very disappointing.

Thank you for your time,
Cheri Nixon

Ms. Minier,

I would like to voice my strong support in favor of the Georgetown LL fields being relocated to the new location off from Bauer Rd and 48th.

I would ask that the zoning required for Space Source to build a new Family Fare be granted.

Thanks for your time and consideration.

Jon and Sherrie Van Manen
Parents of two (and next year will be three) Georgetown Little Leaguers

Dear Administrator:

I was quite shocked to see the initial reports in the Advance that the Georgetown Little League was pursuing the relocation of the baseball fields and the conversion of the current field to another retail center. Since then I have done some investigation and wonder why they have been pursuing this for so many years without giving the community any knowledge of their intentions. I do not live near either field site now do I have children in the program any longer. However, I believe from what I've read that the plans thus far have been to the advantage of Space Source and their buying new fields for the Georgetown Little League. It does not seem that the plan has been conceived with the good of the overall community in mind. The people that have lived on Baldwin and 28th for decades continue to pay the price for the haphazard expansion of roads and retail spaces. This isn't right. We already have a new complex at Baldwin and 36th and the loss of Family Fair at 20th Baldwin will leave another empty building such as the dreadful mess we have at Chicago Drive and Main Street. Once and for all, this township needs to decide if the retail corridor will be on Chicago Drive, where it belongs, or if it will continue to spread through the residential areas along Baldwin Drive and ruin more quality of life in this township. Already, one takes one's life in their hands if they walk along sidewalks on Baldwin and Cottonwood. If you allow more retail on 28th and Baldwin, will you have control over the speed limits? over the noise and congestion so close to one of our most loved and well-used County Parks? Has anyone asked Fair Haven Church about their feelings? I am not a member there, however, I know they have given so much support to this community by allowing the schools to hold countless concerts in their facility. I am afraid this project will go through quickly regardless of the overall impact on the community for the profit of the developer and the supporters of just 1 of our township's sports offerings. Please do not hurry on this project so that everyone's voice may be heard and that the quality of life here will not be further damaged.

Sincerely, Patricia L Brummel, 8543 Thornbrook Dr Jenison

Please submit these comments to the Planning Commission on my behalf. I will also try to attend the meeting in person this evening.

Dear Commissioners:

I urge you to protect what little sense of community we do have in our township and vote against rezoning the land at the corner of Baldwin & 28th to allow for the building of another Spartan Store.

I have lived in Georgetown Township my entire life. I love this community. We are a community of good neighbors, safe streets, and excellent schools. We benefit from reasonable taxes and nice, affordable homes. We are, however, already without a true heart of our community. We already are missing out on a real downtown with walkability and a sense of place. We don't need two more empty buildings and a move of the ball fields to the edge of the township. Our community needs more heart and more personality. Spartan Stores have commented in the newspaper that they want to be a community grocer. Their stores are in our community now and are very very close to homes. They can use their current buildings and out-lots to become more approachable and community-minded. Why not encourage Family Fare to take out some of the excess parking spaces around their buildings (I'm sure they have more than is currently required as zoning standards have changed since they were built), create some green space, put in a garden or playground, add nicer spaces for bikes and strollers to be parked and create more of a sense of a community gathering space? They could take a note from other grocers and sell fresh, local produce outside in the summer. They could work with the adjoining ice cream parlors and offer places to gather, sit, share, and eat ice cream. A move down the road will not solve their problems and would add to our community's empty building spaces and cracking acres of asphalt.

We already have an eyesore in the old Kmart building. We don't need more vacant buildings with large swaths of pavement in our community. Now is not the time throwaway usable resources and build new. Now is the time to restore what we have and make it better. The buildings that currently house the Family Fares in our community are truly not that old. Having recently visited New York City, I know that grocery stores can be vibrant places in old spaces.

I encourage you, our community representatives, to do what is best for our community. Maintain the ballfields--some of the largest in the nation, and keep the stores where they are with support for improvement. Don't add to the list of empty, desolate, unwelcoming spaces in our community. I walk to Family Fare now, but I'll happily drive to their competition if they leave empty buildings in our community.

Do what is right for all of us.

Sincerely,

Aimee Sterk, MSW
2093 Tyler St
Jenison, MI 49428

To Whom It May Concern:

I am unable to attend the meeting tonight due to a softball game scheduled. My daughter has played at the Georgetown Fields for three years and I fully support moving the fields to a new location.

We have enjoyed playing in this league and love everything about it, but the enrollment growth has led to many problems. Finding sufficient parking is a huge problem, leaving people frustrated and often parking across busy Baldwin Street. I fear it is a matter of time until someone is hurt either in the parking lot or crossing the street.

The opportunity to receive new fields with sufficient parking and more playing fields would be greatly appreciated. It is difficult with the current locations and number of fields to accomodate rescheduling due to rain delays and the bathroom facility needs to be updated. Family Fare stores have been good neighbors in the past and I'm certain would accomodate the nearby neighbors with noise control.

Thank you for the consideration,
Tracey Lehen